

1. (Amended) A method for a prophylaxis or a treatment of an airway disease condition in an animal, said method comprising administering to said animal, an effective amount of an agent capable of activating an airway epithelium protease activated receptor (PAR) for a time and wherein under conditions sufficient for activation of said PAR to occur, the activated PAR stimulates, induces, or facilitates inhibition of bronchoconstriction and/or inflammation.

2. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the animal is a human.

3. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the PAR is a receptor selected from the group consisting of PAR1 and PAR2.

4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 3 wherein the PAR is PAR2.

5. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the airway disease condition is a disease selected from the group consisting of asthma, bronchitis, hayfever, alveolitis, ciliary dyskinesia and pulmonary inflammation.

6. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the agent is a peptide selected from the group consisting of Seq.I.D. Nos. <400>1, <400>2, and <400>3 or functional equivalents, homologues, or derivatives thereof.

7. (Amended) The method according to Claim 6 wherein the peptide is modified to permit entry across an epithelial and/or subcutaneous layer.

8. (Amended) The method according to Claim 7 wherein the peptide is fused to penetratin.

9. (Amended) The method according to Claim 7 wherein the peptide is fused to TAT, a functional derivative or homologue thereof.

10. (Amended) A composition useful for facilitating bronchoprotection, said composition comprising an activator of a PAR in airway epithelium and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

11. (Amended) The composition according to Claim 10 wherein the PAR is a receptor selected from the group consisting of PAR1 and PAR2.

12. (Amended) The composition according to Claim 11 wherein the PAR is PAR2.

13. (Amended) An isolated molecule comprising protease activated receptor (PAR) activity wherein said molecule is isolable from airway epithelium and upon activation, said molecule stimulates, induces, or facilitates inhibition of bronchoconstriction and/or inflammation in animals.

14. (Amended) The molecule according Claim 13 wherein the molecule is PAR2.

15. (Amended) A molecule comprising protease activated receptor-2 (PAR2) activity wherein upon activation by a PAR2 activating peptide, said molecule, stimulates, induces, or facilitates inhibition of bronchoconstriction and/or inflammation in animals.

Please add the following new Claims:

16. (New) The isolated molecule of Claim 13 wherein said molecule stimulates, induces, or facilitates inhibition of bronchoconstriction and/or inflammation in humans.

17. (New) The molecule according to Claim 15 wherein said molecule is a recombinant, synthetic molecule.

18. (New) The molecule according to Claim 15 wherein said molecule is a purified, naturally occurring molecule.

19. (New) The molecule according to Claim 17 wherein said molecule is isolated from airway epithilium.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been amended to more precisely claim the invention according to conventional practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. New Claims 16-19 have been added. As a result, Claims 1-19 are presented for examination. Support for new Claims 16-19 can be found in the existing claims. No new matter is being added herewith.

The specific changes to the specification and the amended claims are shown on a separate set of pages attached hereto and entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, which follows the signature page of this Preliminary Amendment. On this set of pages, the insertions are underlined while the [deletions are bolded and bracketed].